



Waterfalls Weekend Activities March 15th - 17th

Welcome to Fall Creek Falls' Waterfall Weekend! Our numerous waterfalls, beautiful overlooks, extensive hiking trails, plentiful accommodations, central location, and available educational programs make Fall Creek Falls a convenient hub of activity for the waterfall enthusiast. We encourage you to take advantage of the programs that the staff at Fall Creek Falls has arranged for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

***A parent or guardian must accompany youngsters 12 years old and younger.**

Stuart Carroll – Interpretive Specialist III
Matt Brown – Park Ranger II
Jon Morris – Park Naturalist

Friday, March 15th

- 6:30pm **Welcome to Waterfalls Weekend** – While you are enjoying the seafood buffet at the Inn, be sure to stop by the lobby to talk to Ranger Matt about the park and the rest of the weekend's events. There will be a rolling slide show of some of the area's key waterfalls and geologic features in the lobby for you to enjoy while you enter and exit the Inn as well.
- 8:00pm **Night Hike to Fall Creek Falls** – Join Ranger Matt at the lobby of the Inn for a 4-mile round trip jaunt to the Fall Creek Falls Overlook. This walk will be on the paved bike trail around the lake and will be a great opportunity to become acquainted with the night life and sounds around Fall Creek Falls State Park. Please bring a small flashlight.

Saturday, March 16th

- 8:30am **Hike to the Base of Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Jon at the Main Overlook of Fall Creek Falls for a short but strenuous hike to the bottom of the falls. Along the way, we will discuss our park's forest ecology and geology. This hike should conclude in time for participants to attend the photography seminar.
- 10:00am **Waterfall Photography Seminar** – Meet professional landscape photographer John Hargis at the Nature Center and enjoy an hour long talk on basic photography, composition and special tips on photographing waterfalls. His award winning images are displayed at the Nature Center and throughout the Inn. Mr. Hargis' images have been featured in books, calendars and travel magazines. They also grace homes and businesses across America. After the seminar, we will venture outside the Nature Center for a photo shoot and instruction period at Cane Creek Cascades or Cane Creek Falls.

- 1:00pm **The Big “6” Hike** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Nature Center for 6-mile round trip hike to see the 6 most prominent waterfalls at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes.
- 1:30pm **Waterfalls Slideshow** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to see a glimpse of the waterfalls that Fall Creek Falls State Park has to offer.
- 3:30pm **Water Quality** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center to learn how water quality can affect the life within the stream. Also, learn some chemical, biological, and physical features that limit life within an aquatic ecosystem.

Sunday, March 17th

- 10:00am **Hike to Big Laurel Falls** – Join Stuart at the Nature Center for a 40-mile carpool to Virgin Falls State Natural Area where will hike in 3 miles to the Big Laurel Falls. We will hike back out via an old road. Round trip distance is 6½ miles. This hike should be considered strenuous. Don't forget water, snacks, and good boots!
- 1:30pm **Waterfalls Driving Tour** – Meet Jon at the Nature Center for a scenic driving tour of Fall Creek Falls State Park featuring the park's spectacular waterfalls. On this tour, we will see Cane Creek Falls, Rockhouse Creek Falls, Cane Creek Cascades, Raccoon Creek Falls, Fall Creek Falls, and Piney Falls. There is a short walk from the van to waterfalls. The trail to Piney Falls Overlook is rocky, but there are many other gorge overlooks visible from van. There is a limit of 14 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Nature Center. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.

Cool Nature Fact



Do you know that waterfalls are ecologically important features in our landscape? The cool spray generated by a waterfall keeps the area around the plunge basin wet for a greater period of the year than other locations nearby. The increased moisture and cooler temperatures result in a microclimate that supports a variety of unique plants and animals.

Forest Ecology is one of the many topics which may be discussed in the Fall Creek Falls 2½-day or 5-day Environmental Education Program for school groups. For more information, contact the Nature Center (423) 881-5708.



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